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1_8_13 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, January 8, 2013 @ 7:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Administrative Assistant Karen Burke.

Public in attendance: Mustafa Varoglu.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

Mustafa Varoglu stopped into the meeting to thank the Commission for putting up additional off-leash signage at Menotomy Rocks Park.

Robbins Farm Sledding

An email was received from Oakes Plimpton expressing his concern with the safety of sledding at Boston Hill at Robbins Farm Park. He mentioned that he put up some signage warning parents and kids that snowtubes are dangerous and suggests using the baseball hill. He would like to see a more official sign posted.

The Commission agrees that, per recommendation of Town Counsel, signage cannot be put up because it opens up liability. Town by-laws require that any signs posted must be approved. The signage that Oakes posted will need to be taken down. Mr. Connelly will contact him.

Picnic and Special Event Policy

The Picnic and Special Event Request Forms were approved with minor layout changes. The quantity of people attending the events may change in the future. More than one time slot can be requested.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Capital Improvement Update

Florence Avenue Playground – The date for the next public meeting is January 31, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the Dallin School. Mr. Connelly said the initial changes made by CBA look good. Mr. Connelly also stated that surfacing will be a big topic. There will be no water elements due to budget. The Commission expressed its disappointment and discussed the fact that they thought the water element would be a unique feature of the new playground. Mr. Connelly will get a rough estimate on adding a water element.

Thorndike OLRA Update: There have been no complaints. The decision was made to open the gates at the last meeting. The gate was jammed during the first snow storm, volunteers helped to clear the entrance using ice choppers and had asked for a key to the shed. It was decided that staff will take care of daily maintenance this first year to allow for a better understanding of what does and doesn't work and the effort needed. Mr. Connelly told the Friends of Thorndike OLRA that a key will not be given out, and the Commission supports this decision.

Buck Field Renovation – No change.

Poets Corner Master Plan – Mr. Connelly talked to the Town Manager, who approved the project and signed off on testing. Other Town departments also have an interest in this property for other uses.

Andrew Leonard will submit work done to date, and we will hold off on the design contract.

Summer Street Field Netting – Mr. Connelly needs to contact Republic for pricing to hang the netting from the light poles for the pilot test.

Rink Sign – The rink sign is complete.

Capital Request for FY 2014 – No changes.

Special Requests

There was a special request for a birthday party with pony rides. The Commission all agreed that this not an activity that would be approved.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink – The tournaments were successful. There was an incident where cars drove onto and parked on the bike path. The cars were towed. Ms. Mayer asked to investigate the installation of signage or barriers to prevent this from happening.

Recreation – Registration numbers are very good, very positive.

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – Mr. Connelly will discuss this at the February meeting.

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – N/A

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation